Letters to Santa

The following poem was submitted to the NEWS recently. It was written by Morris Morgan in December, 1978 and is a fitting beginning to our "Letters to Santa" this year.

"Some People Say"

Some people say there is no Santa Claus
Just why I do not know
But just because they say this
Does not mean it is really so.

When the children get up on Christmas day
They have only one thought in mind.
To get down stairs as quick as they can
To see what they can find.
And when they see a lot of toys,
Their eyes light up with glee,
Santa brought not only toys
He also brought a tree!

You people who don't believe in Santa Claus
There must be something wrong with you.
It does not get you anything
To callee a lot of grief
Unless you get some pleasure
in spoiling a childs belief.
This day is surely sacred to those
Who believe in him.
Lets all be kind to our children
I think it would please him.

Dear Santa,

I would like - Barbie Doll and clothes, Poochie set clothes, and paint book, and paints.

Love,
Kerri Short

Dear Santa,

I would like - Atari, tape player and tapes, paints, and clothes.

Love,
Heather Short

Dear Santa,

My name is Sean Michael Bannon and I am four years old. I have a baby brother Matthew who is seven months old. I think I have been a good boy helping Mommy thake care of Matthew - so now I going to give you a list of things I would like you to bring my whole family. First, some clothes for my Mommy and Daddy and Grandma too!

For my two brothers, Jerry and Jim some clothes too! And my sisters Mary Ann and Michele. Now for my brother Matthew and my self, some toys that we can both play with.

I would also like a tricycle if you have enough room on your sleigh. Some wind up cars and a stocking filled with goodies. Santa, I know that I can't have everything I'd like. But thats all I'm going to ask for now.

There will be lots of time for me to get things I like. Have a safe trip all over the world.

Love,
Sean Michael Bannon

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Jeffrey Witts. I have been trying to be a good boy at home and in school. For Christmas I would like Castle Grayskull and Masters of the Universe Figures.

I will leave cookies and milk for you.

Love,
Jeffrey Witts
17 Hammond Avenue

Dear Santa,

My name is Jennifer Witts, for Christmas I would like Baby Skates, Theodore the Chipmunk, and maybe a Cabbage Patch Doll.

P.S. Please don't forget my cousins Jill and Matthew.

Love,
Jennifer Witts
17 Hammond Ave.

Dear Santa and Mrs. Santa,

Here's my Christams list - I hope you can get them for me.

I want one Cabbage Patch Kid, Cabbage patch sheets for my new bed, Fisher-Price weaving loom, Makit and Bakit and some Care Bear toys. I almost forgot the Charmkin's Jewlry House!

I'm in first grade at St. Joseph's in Endicott, N.Y. and would like you to be good to my classmates and sister Joanne Marie.

I have two brothers, Kevin who's 11 and Freddy 16 and a sister Laura 17. We've all been very good so please bring us presents instead of coal. Laura and Freddy would like a car!

I love you and Mrs. Santa and will say a prayer for you every nite.

Please give Baby Jesus a very special present because Christmas is his birthday.

Love,
Marisa Kozlowski,
Endwell, N.Y.

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would like a U-Turn Race Set, Castle Grayskull, Trap Jaw, Attack Track, Tella, Mase-Faces, and some surprises.

Please bring something for my sister, Lynnette and our pets, Sneakers, Raschel, Blueboy, and Sunshine.

I'll leave cookies for you on the dining room table.

Love,
Loren Leprease

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would like a bulldozer, a payloader, and a dump-truck. Any other surprises you might think of will be fine. Also, please don't forget to leave a little treat for my dog, Brandy.

Love,
David Horan,
age 2½
Carbondale.

Dear Santa,

I want a BMX Bike, Jabba the Hut, Y-Wing Fighter, Return of the Jedi figures, Crossbows and Catapolts, He-Man, Trap Jaw, Beast Man, Ewok stuffed animal.

Love,
Jason Andrews
Allentown

Gift ideas for everyone...

Santa to help promote gift certificate give-away

This Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, December 8, 9, and 10, will be extra special days and nights in Honesdale. Customers will be able to register their names at participating stores for seven Grand Prize gift certificate packets valued at over $300, $100, and five at $20 each. Customers will be able to register between 5 and 9 p.m.

Santa will arrive in Honesdale at 6:30 p.m. Thursday and will be available at the caboose following his grand arrival parade.

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Cy Grosvenor remembers his days at Benjamin Franklin High School

The series of NEWS stories about the former Benjamin Franklin High School has stirred memories of the period during which it was built, and of the five years I attended classes in the building.

No, it didn't take me five years to complete the four-year high school course. I attended eighth grade classes in the "new high school." These were held in the three classrooms south of the Wyoming Ave. entrance for several years after the school was opened. The Misses Anna Barry, Julia Kilhullen and Mae Pengelly were the teachers.

When preparations were being made for the construction of the school, shovels demolished the stone walls on Lincoln Ave. and Terrace St., then dug a deep L-shaped excavation around the old red brick high school. At the northwest corner was an especially deep hole where the gymnasium was later to be.

On early spring day, with the temperature hovering near the freezing mark, I stopped to watch several boys poling a raft about the water-filled hole at the corner of Lincoln Ave. and Terrace St. They had nailed together several planks they had found laying about and were having a great time playing Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer.

There were four boys on the raft; one on each side. As the craft neared the Terrace St. side three of the boys leaped ashore. When the raft was relieved of the weight of these three, it tipped and the fourth boy went plunging into the cold, muddy water. He was a sorry sight when his friends pulled him from the drink. It is more than likely that he heard something other than "Oh dear, what happened!" when he arrived at his home.

The new high school was almost completed when Carbondalians awakened one morning to witness one of the most spectacular "torches" in the city's history. The old high school was burning. Setting as it did, atop the rise on Terrace St., it was clearly visible to a good share of the city. Flames shot upward a hundred feet or more as the wooden interior of the building burned. Typewriters from the commercial department came hurtling down, struck the stone entrance steps on Terrace St. and bounded into the street. By noontime only smoking ruins remained.

The new high school wasn't ready for occupancy so classes were held for several months in various locations: Trinity Parish House, the YMCA, and others. It wasn't easy, all records having been destroyed, but school went on.

At do many others, I have fond memories of my years as a student at Carbondale High. It was during these years that the school had the best orchestra in its history. Each morning we marched into the auditorium to the strains of a Sousa march. King Cotton was the one most-often played. It seemed to be Prof. Bly's favorite.

Another march often played was the "Washington Post." When this and "Abide With Me" were played by the band at the memorial Day exercise several years ago, as a tribute to the recently-deceased Gabriel Publiano, it brought back memories of the young clarinetist who played in the High School orchestra. In my mind I could see the teenaged Gabe as he played the solo passages of the William Tell overture.

Other musical selections are reminders of my high school days. When I hear the "Triumphal March" from "Aida" I can see Charlie Melville, Emerson Ruland, Jerry McCabe (the Rev. Gerald McCabe) and Bob York raising their trumpets to their lips to play the fanfare sections of this operatic march.

Not only was the orchestra "top notch" but the teaching staff was of the highest caliber. A more dedicated group of instructors would be impossible to assemble: Harry Coleman, James Crane, Walter Quinn, Leland Brunner, Angela Birs, Hazel Gallager, Sarah Swigert, Anna Scott, Harry Bender, Marion VonBeck, Dorothy Bailey, Louis Coogan, Mary B. Mckndrew, Patrick Murray, Dwight Rude, Minnie Wallis, Edna Loomis and Charles Lesher.

No honors ever came my way as tribute to my scholastic abilities. To label my efforts "average" would be stretching things a bit. In only one subject did I earn 100s: bookkeeping. If my instructor, Prof. Charles Lesher, could have foreseen the career for which I was being prepared - the scourge of taxpayers in the Empire State as a tax examiner with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance - he'd have flunked me.

A teacher who was a genius at "getting the message across" was Miss Edna Loomis. If my writings display any knowledge of the rules of grammar, it is Miss Loomis who deserves the credit.

It was Miss Loomis who first encouraged me to write, after I had written a composition describing the scene from a high hill, with an unobstructed view in all directions. If dear Miss Loomis had had a crystal globe and looked into it and seen what I would some day inflict upon readers of the NEWS, she'd have called me to her desk and told me, "Forget what I said."

One fo my teachers in my freshman year was Mary B. McAndrew. It was she who, as City School Superintendent, renamed Carbondale High School "Benjamin Franklin High School." The name of the school may have been changed: but still, on the latch plates of the outside doors is emboased "C H S" - Carbondale Area High School. Just as firmly impressed, in the minds of thousands of former students, are the memories of happy days spent at "Carbondale High."

ONE OF THE BEST REMEMBERED EVENTS of those who attended the old Carbondale High School was the day the school burned in 1916. A new building was already under construction prior to the fire. It was an "L" shaped building which partly surrounded the former structure. Students moved into the new building (partially visible in lower left corner) in 1917. The name of the school was later changed from Carbondale High School to Benjamin Franklin High School. (Photo courtesy of Cy Grosvenor)

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